

Remarks

The Office Action mailed February 24, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-29 and 31-39 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-29 and 31-39 are rejected. Claim 30 has been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claims 1, 4-7, 17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 33, and 38 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully traverse the statement on page 2 of the Office Action. The statement states that “restarting, by a computer, the project after at least one of adding, deleting, and changing the devices” has been admitted by Applicants as prior art. Applicants respectfully submit that “restarting, by a computer, the project after at least one of adding, deleting, and changing the devices” is not admitted as prior art. Specifically, the specification states, “A screen viewer is invoked 136 to open the screen saved in the previous step and configure the system ports and devices using the wizard. The project is then stopped 138, and a configuration update is run 140 from the workbench. The project is then restarted 142.” (paragraph 25). Accordingly, the specification states, “the project is then restarted 142” and does not state, “restarting, by a computer, the project”. Hence, “restarting, by a computer, the project after at least one of adding, deleting, and changing the devices” is not admitted prior art.

Applicants respectfully traverse the statement on page 3 of the Office Action. The statement states that “automatically updating a configuration...” and “restarting, by a computer” followed after “determining” have a functionality which is not incorporated or related with the determining step. Applicants have amended Claim 1.

The rejection of Claims 1-29 and 31-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Salas et al. (U.S. Patent 5,862,391) is respectfully traversed.

Salas et al. describe a software for monitoring and controlling selected aspects of power usage/consumption (column 2, lines 33-36). The software is loaded into a computer and includes a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server (column 2, lines 32-36). The DDE server allows external programs to access power management data in a

Microsoft Windows environment (column 2, lines 36-38). Data interface to the DDE server is provided by a system through a Wonderware Intouch utility or any other DDE aware program (column 2, lines 38-40). The DDE server is coupled to a mapping function, a client, and a plurality of field devices (Figure 30). The DDE server is also coupled to a plurality of devices, a system level tester, and a plurality of clients (Figure 31A). The DDE server includes a server (200) coupled to a device (202), a register group (204), a DDE handler (208), and a communications module (206) (Figure 32).

Claim 1 recites a method for adding a plurality of intelligent end devices (IEDs) to a power management control system, the method comprising the steps of “prompting a user to create a project; prompting the user to add the IEDs to the project; executing a file to automatically configure the IEDs; generating screens for the IEDs added to the project; determining, by the power management control system, whether a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol is installed within the project; installing, by the power management control system, the DDE protocol upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project and upon receiving selection made to add the IEDs to the project; automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the IEDs and the screens; and restarting, by a computer, the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing said IEDs.”

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a method for adding a plurality of intelligent end devices (IEDs) as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest installing, by the power management control system, the DDE protocol upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project and upon receiving selection made to add the IEDs to the project. Rather, Salas et al. describe monitoring and controlling, by a software, selected aspects of power usage/consumption. The software includes a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server. The DDE server allows external programs to access power management data in a Microsoft Windows environment. The DDE server is coupled to a mapping function, a client, and a plurality of field devices. The DDE server is also coupled to a plurality of devices, a system level tester, and a plurality of clients. The DDE server includes a server coupled to a device, a register group, a DDE handler, and a communications module. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest installing, by the power

management control system, the DDE protocol upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project and upon receiving selection made to add the IEDs to the project. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 2-6 and 31-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 and 31-33 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2-6 and 31-33 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 7 recites a power control management system comprising “a control computer; at least one intelligent end device interfaced to said control computer for controlling and monitoring power; and a software package comprising a user interface, an applications layer, an operating system and a Power Builder for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected intelligent end devices to said power management control system, said Power Builder configured to build external applications onto a power management control project framework, automatically create points associated with said selected intelligent end devices, generate main menu screens for said selected intelligent end devices, restart a project to which said at least one intelligent end device is added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing said at least one intelligent end device, and install a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project and upon receiving a selection made to add said at least one intelligent end device to the project, wherein said software package is configured to automatically update a configuration of at least one of said selected intelligent end devices, said points, and said screens.”

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a power control management system as recited in Claim 7. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a Power Builder configured to install a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project and upon receiving a selection made to add the at least one intelligent end device to the project. Rather, Salas et al. describe monitoring and controlling, by a software, selected aspects of power usage/consumption. The software includes a dynamic data

exchange (DDE) server. The DDE server allows external programs to access power management data in a Microsoft Windows environment. The DDE server is coupled to a mapping function, a client, and a plurality of field devices. The DDE server is also coupled to a plurality of devices, a system level tester, and a plurality of clients. The DDE server includes a server coupled to a device, a register group, a DDE handler, and a communications module. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a Power Builder configured to install a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project and upon receiving a selection made to add the at least one intelligent end device to the project. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 8-16 and 34-35 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-16 and 34-35 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that Claims 8-16 and 34-35 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 17 recites a computer programmed to “prompt a user to create a project; prompt the user to select a plurality of intelligent end devices (IEDs) to be added to the project; configure the selected IEDs; generate screens for the selected IEDs; determine whether a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol is installed within the project; install the DDE protocol upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project and upon receiving a selection made to add the selected IEDs to the project; automatically update a configuration of at least one of the selected IEDs and the screens; and restart the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the selected IEDs.”

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer as recited in Claim 17. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer programmed to install the DDE protocol upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project and upon receiving a selection made to add the selected IEDs to the project. Rather, Salas et al. describe monitoring and controlling, by a software, selected aspects of power usage/consumption. The software includes a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server. The DDE server allows external programs to access power

management data in a Microsoft Windows environment. The DDE server is coupled to a mapping function, a client, and a plurality of field devices. The DDE server is also coupled to a plurality of devices, a system level tester, and a plurality of clients. The DDE server includes a server coupled to a device, a register group, a DDE handler, and a communications module. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer programmed to install the DDE protocol upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project and upon receiving a selection made to add the selected IEDs to the project. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 17 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 18-20 and 36-37 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 17. When the recitations of Claims 18-20 and 36-37 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 17, Applicants submit that Claims 18-20 and 36-37 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 21 recites a method for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected intelligent end devices (IEDs) to a power management control system, the method comprising the steps of “building an external application onto a project framework, wherein said building comprises: automatically configuring components associated with IEDs; generating main menu screens for the IEDs; and automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the components and the IEDs; restarting, by a computer, a project to which the IEDs are added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the IEDs; and installing, by the power management control system, a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project and upon receiving a selection made to add the IEDs to the project.”

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a method for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected devices as recited in Claim 21. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest installing, by the power management control system, a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project and upon receiving a selection made to add the IEDs to the project. Rather, Salas et al. describe monitoring and controlling, by a software, selected aspects of power

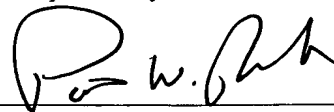
usage/consumption. The software includes a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server. The DDE server allows external programs to access power management data in a Microsoft Windows environment. The DDE server is coupled to a mapping function, a client, and a plurality of field devices. The DDE server is also coupled to a plurality of devices, a system level tester, and a plurality of clients. The DDE server includes a server coupled to a device, a register group, a DDE handler, and a communications module. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest installing, by the power management control system, a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project and upon receiving a selection made to add the IEDs to the project. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 21 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 30 has been canceled. Claims 22-29 and 38-39 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 21. When the recitations of Claims 22-29 and 38-39 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 21, Applicants submit that Claims 22-29 and 38-39 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-29 and 31-39 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patrick W. Rasche
Registration No. 37,916
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070